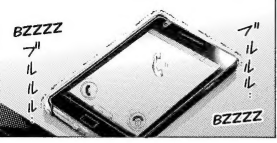
Well, I'm off then!
Yup, be careful.
Sorry, Haruto-kun. I know you've got a paper that has to get done, and here I am, going out on my own...
Aw, don't worry about it. I can't really make much progress when you're around, anyhow.
Plus, it's been a while since you went out and had fun!
You've been wantin' to go to this concert for a while, haven't ya?
Yes!
Well, then, I'll be back as quickly as I can.
Yep... I'll just finish out this report right away and then make dinner for when you come home.

A town where you live
#223 The Slapstick Stampede

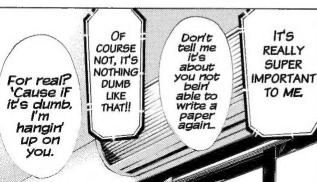

BZZZZ
BZZZZ

Hm?

Alll right, let's do this!
No time left 'til the due date, so I gotta get this done today.

Hello?
OH... HARUTO?! IT'S ME, TAKASHI!!

What're you bein' so serious about...
Is it important?


IT'S REALLY SUPER IMPORTANT TO ME.
Don't tell me it's about you not bein' able to write a paper again...
OF COURSE NOT, IT'S NOTHING DUMB LIKE THAT!!
For real? 'Cause if it's dumb, I'm hangin' up on you.

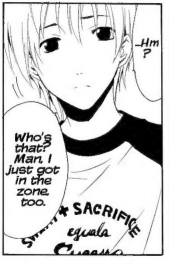
YEAH, YOU WANT SOMETHIN'?
I'M A LITTLE BUSY TODAY, IS ALL.
Mm... Hmmm... I just got somethin' I want to ask you about.

I FINALLY WENT ALL THE WAY WITH KIYOMI.
...
UM... WELL, I...

I need to get dinner ready before Yuzuki comes home.
All right, let's get to work.

CLICK!
?!

DING DONG
ピンポーン

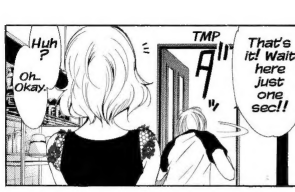

Hm?
Who's that? Man, I just got in the zone, too.
SACRIFICE

Ah! I'm so glad you're here!!
-Yes?
ガチャ
KACHK
SWEAT + SACRIFICE equals Success

Oh, Kirishima-san, it's awful!!
Hoshi-na... What're you so stressed out about?

Huh?!
W...Why not?! Are your parents not gonna let you go?!
That's not it.
SWEAT + SACRIFICE equals Success
-I-
I might not be able to go on my study abroad...!!
I...
Uh...
I...

I don't have enough credits!
This broad might have to stay back instead of being able to stay abroad!!
201
!!
BAM
No, I'm tryin' to tell you, right now I'm...
Kirishima-san, you took Philosophy and Statistics I, didn't you?!
I'm in them, so please help me out!!
Shut up!! Did you just come here to make a dumb joke about studying abroad?!
That's not it!!
Grip
Grip
I'm begging you!! If I turn in the paper, I think I'll be okay!!
Let's work on it together!!


Huh?
Oh... Okay.
TMP
That's it! Wait here just one sec!!
...Ah.

Here!
This flash drive has all my Philosophy and Statistics I wrote papers on it.
Just change 'em a little and turn 'em in. It should be just fine.

...Uh.
I mean... It seems kind of like cheating...
...don't you think?

Yeah. It is probably cheating!!
This is the little thing that comes before the big thing!! It's just a little white lie!!
But sometimes going through with a grand strategy means you have to make a little sacrifice. You gotta think about tactics now!!
H... Wa... What are you talking about?

PAFF
I only want to help you toward that dream!!
I'm talking about achieving your dream of studying abroad!!
...
Kirishima-san...!
woosh
It may be difficult for you, but copy those papers! And then... please, go to England!!
This is no time to falter!!
No... Please, go by yourself...
Yes!! To England, you and I!!
Yeah! To England!!
And I will absolutely go to England!!
I... will copy them! I'll copy them all!!
I understand!

All right. this time I really gotta get to work on my own paper.
BZZZZZ
BZZZZZ
Phew..
Glad I didn't delete those papers.

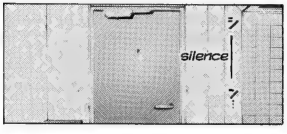
Yeah, yeah. I get it. Just tell me what you want.
....
I'm busy.
....
Ah. Hello! Haruto-kuuuun? It's your big sister!!
I was just wondering how you were doing, so I decided to give you a call!

Well, you see, my boyfriend just proposed to me!!
I'm so sorry, but could you do me a favor and meet him just once to have a chat with him...?
Huh?
Why do I gotta meet him?
...
Come on, he's the guy who might end up being your big brother!
So what if we don't see eye to eye? What would you do?
If the two of you don't see eye to eye, it'd make things sooooo hard, don't you think?
Huh?

CLICK
?!
....
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?
I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT YOU THINK OF HIM!

....
All right, now I really have to concentrate.

CLANCE


silence

Okay.

Besides, how many times have we gone through this?
Doesn't matter. She'll just break up with him anyway.

NRGH !!
SWEAT+SACRIF
DING DONG
ピンポーン!
..Yes ?
Hello there !
What's the matter? You've got a stern look on your face..
....
What do you want ..?

...
Huh? Yeah, she's at a concert with her friends.
Looks like my sister isn't in today, hm?
Someone just asked me if I would date him.
Actually, Haruto-san...
So what about it?
W...Well, you see! If I did date him, I'd be his girl-friend!!
?
Yeah, that's about right.
...Huh?
Oh... kay.
shff
Before that...

Would you please have sex with me... just once...?
I swear I would never tell Yuzuki...

This is happening again...?

Hmm?

...!
TOSS
Look, I'm the kind of person who turns down stuff like this, okay?

Ah... Hello?
I have an answer for you... I'm not going to date you.
Yes.
Sorry!
TOK
TOK
What was that all about?!
Why's stuff like this comin' at me all at once...?
I'm beggin' you all, just let me finish my paper...
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
...Yeah?
Ah, Haruto-kun?! It's Takanami!!
Rin-chan just dumped me...
THEN IT WAS YOU?!
CLICK

All right, phone's off...
And if anyone else comes to the door, I just ain't gonna answer.
DING DONG ピンポーン
Well then, looks like someone's here...
Someone else really came.
Sorry, but I'm gonna do my paper...
DING DONG ピンポーン
BANG ダン
No...
matter...
WHAT?! SHUT UP!!
Waaaa!!
WHO THE HECK IS IT?!
What?! What?!
SWEAT+SACRI equals Success

I came 'cause you turned your phone off all of a sudden!!
Why're you lookin' at me like that?! I'm sposta be your friend!
Did you get a job stoppin' me from writing this paper?
Wh-Ta-ka-shi.
I wouldn't come all this way just to talk about that!
Although- Her boobs really were big and soft!
What, like all the talk about how big and soft her boobies were?!
I REAL-LY!! DON'T WANT TO!! HEAR ABOUT IT!! 'CAUSE I!! AM BU-SY!!
Anyway, just be sure not to get her pregnant, all right?
I don't wanna talk about that. It's creepy.
So you wanna tell me all about what it felt like to lose your virginity, then?
No, no, the impor-tant part comes after all that
...
Huh?
Wish you'd said that a little bit sooner, man.
Ha ha...

'Cause it looks like... I managed to do that...
Some-how...
....
Wh... What?
Like you said...
Preg-nant.
Fshhhhh
Huh?

But my boyfriend promised to make dinner for me, so I really have to get home.
I'm sorry!
Whaa? Come on, you can come drinking with us, can't you? It's just one time, let's go, Yuzuki!
Mmmh... I'd really like to.
Ohhh... Well, if that's the case... That's so cool... You guys have a really good relationship.
Yeah, we can't mess around with a relationship like that, we'll just go alone then.
Sorry! I'll come next time!
Okay.
Later, Yuzuki.
I wonder what Haruto-kun's going to make for me tonight...
I'm so excited...

Ki-yomi-san!
Hm?
Oh... Yuzuki-chan.
What a coinci-dence, running into each other like this.
...Yes.
It sure is...
....
...?
Is some-thing the matter? You seem kind of down...
Um... Can I talk to you for a little bit?
Hyh?
Oh, sure...

#224 What's A Given...?!

.....

.....

...Yeah.
I guess not...
Just sayin' you got her pregnant is too sudden. I can't follow it.
Anyway, you need to start from the beginning, dude...

It was about three months ago, I guess... Kiyomi came over to hang out at my place.
Uh... Uh huh...
Well... I mean, the mood got pretty good...
I asked her if we could do it with the lights on, but she said she wanted to turn 'em off.
But I really wanted to see her, so I wanted them on y'know...
So I asked her if I could at least have the more dim light on, and-
I DON'T WANNA HEAR ALL THE DETAILS!!
You don't gotta be so graphic!!
S... Sorry... Anyway...
Since like last week, Kiyomi has been feelin' real crummy.
So this morning I guess she went to the doctor...
...
...And they told her...
...she's pregnant...

I guess they said...
...she's three months along.

....
Yeah...

...So.
So what does...
...Asakura think of all this...?

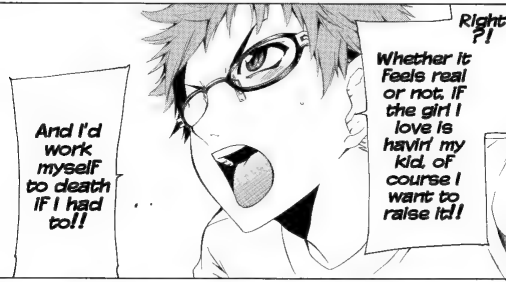
I mean, we used contraception, but...
...I guess these kinds of things happen sometimes...
...huh...

I haven't really asked her yet.
I'm thinking I'll meet up with her after this and we can talk about it.
But before that I wanted to see what you had to say.

I mean, honestly, it just doesn't seem real...
It feels like I was just thinking about stuff like traveling and moving in with Kiyomi.
But I never even imagined something like this...
MALLORCA
CARGINIA
RESORT
Man, askin' me what to do's not really gonna help...
You guys gotta make that decision on your own...
Yeah. I know... It's not easy for me, either, really...
...But. ...Hey.
You have a choice to make now, don't you...?
...Huh?
...Yeah.
You know...
There ain't that much time left, and all.
Are you gonna have the baby... or... y'know... not...?
I guess not...

No!! No!!
Wh?!
F...For real?!
Don't freak me out with talk like that! Havin' the baby is a given!!
Well of course, man!! What d'you think you're sayin'?!

If you got Yuzuki-chan pregnant right now, what would you think?! Would you be unhappy?!
Huh?! Well, of course I'd be happy about it, 'cause it'd be our kid!!

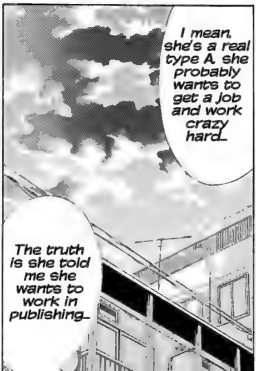

Right?!
Whether it feels real or not, if the girl I love is havin' my kid, of course I want to raise it!!
And I'd work myself to death if I had to!!
. . .

That's what bein' a man is all about, ain't it?!
OF course it is!! OFF courze it is!!!
Ain't it, Haruto?!
U-Uh, I guess so...
Then what're you so worried about?
Well...
...

I'm worried how Kiyomi's gonna feel...
...Wh?

....
Well, that's...

No matter how bad I wanna have the kid...
...it doesn't mean she feels the same way...


I mean, she's a real type A, she probably wants to get a job and work crazy hard...
The truth is she told me she wants to work in publishing...

And plus... I mean, she probably...
I think she does like me, or love me, but...
...I don't think she's ever thought about marryin' me...

...let alone havin' the kid of a guy like me.
CLACK
I bet she probably would just think of it as a pain...

C... C'mon, you can't know that!!
I'm sure Asa-kura-
No... I know it...
'Cause I can't measure up to Kyou-suke Kazama...

It ain't fair...
You can't win against a dead man...
-Takashi.
....
That ain't true...
Huh?
Because Yuzuki...
...she loved Kazama, too.

...But right now...
...I'm positive that she loves me more than him!!

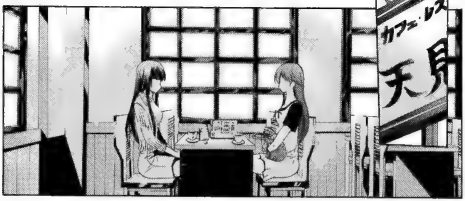
....
Haru-to...

Sure, you're an idiot, a pervert, and you're super unreliable...
I mean, you're a total crap person, for real.
H...
Hey, come on!!
...But...
Well...

You're just as good a person...
...as Kazama was.

And I don't think that Asakura is so dumb...
...as to not be able to see that.

....
...Yeah.
I hope that's true...


カフェ・レス
天見

Um...
Are you really okay with it...?

...Yeah. Takashi-kun is unreliable, irresponsible, and he's kind of entirely useless...
I don't really think he's the type of person who can raise a child...

...Ki-yomi-san.
Sip

But I want to have his child!
Be-cause it's his and I love him!!
....
Yeah -?

Well, I mean...
...I would want the same, I think... If I was having Haruto-kun's child.

Then it'll be all right, I think...
Huh?

Yuzuki-chan.
....

But I'm sure...
...that Takashi-kun will always be very happy that you did it...
SAKURA
RESORT
CHIBA

If you do end up having the child, there will be people who are against it, I'm sure...
They may even get mad at you...
You'll likely go through so many hardships that they make some of your dreams impossible to achieve...

So I'll say...
Congratulations, Kiyomi-san.
....
...Thank you.
I hope that's true...

You're getting...
...married?!
Yeah.
We ended up deciding we should at least make it official.
Huh... I see... Well... yeah. I guess that's what you gotta do, if you're gonna have a kid together.
Yep.
Wow!! Congrats, you two!!
Yes... Thank you.
And uh... well... y'see we're gonna go meet with Kyomi's parents and tell them about it, after this.
But I'm super nervous...
Well, yeah, but you gotta get it over with, don't ya?
It's not like you can go do it and get their approval afterwards.
W... Well that's why...

Sorry, but I was wondering if you could help us practice a little bit?
Maybe you and Yuzuki-chan could play Kiyomi's parents for me?
Wha? Like I could do that! What do you think this is? A comedy sketch?
C'mon, I'm seriously askin' for your help!! I'm this close to goin' nuts, I swear!!
Please, Kirishima-kun.
He's complaining that he doesn't want to go if you don't help us out.
Let's play along.
It'll be fine, as long as it helps him calm down so he can go.
Mmm mh...
Man, even so, I'm not sure I can...
All right. Fine. It's a dumb idea but I guess I'll do it.
Ahh!! What a pal you are!
Whatever, just do it quick.
I already feel like takin' it back.

# #225 Rehearsal!

....

TELL THAT TO THE GUY WHO PICKED OUT THE COS-TUME!!
Um...
My father isn't bald, though...

This really is a comedy sketch !!
PLAP
....
No way! It took a lotta thought to pick out that cos-tume!!
You like cos-tumes too much!!

Don't start already !!
Now, now, Father, calm down.

....
I'm tellin' ya, I'm super serious!!
IF you guys aren't serious about this, I ain't gonna do it at all!!

Cafe - Restaurant
カフェ・レストラン

Sorry.
You better take off the glasses too.

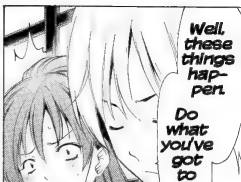
...Well then?
What did you want to talk about?
Uh... Um...

WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?
Uh... Um... Well, you see...
Ack

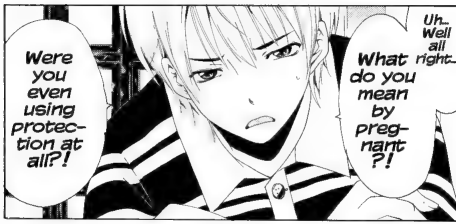
Ki... Kiyomi's gotten preg-nant...
I... I... I'm here to ask you if you'll give me her hand in marriage...

....

Like I said, too fast !!
THANKS A BUNCH !!

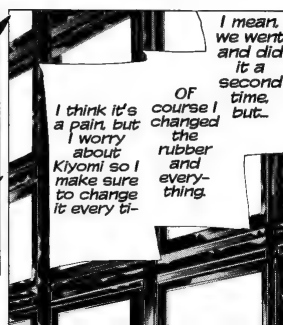

Well, these things hap-pen.
Do what you've got to do.

Whhh.. Like I know how I'd react to that!
You need to ask for more details !!
...
That was just too easy !!
If you were her father, you'd make more of a fuss, wouldn't you ?!
That was too fast !!


Uh... Well all right...
What do you mean by pregnant?!
Were you even using protection at all?!

Wh?!
...Ah!
I... I was!! I swear I really was!!

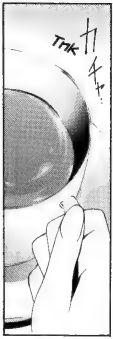
BAM


I mean, we went and did it a second time, but...
Of course I changed the rubber and everything.
I think it's a pain, but I worry about Kiyomi so I make sure to change it every ti-

Wh?! Huh?! What. what?!
Why'd you hit me?!
My father is a very serious person...
Do it right.

...
...Got it.

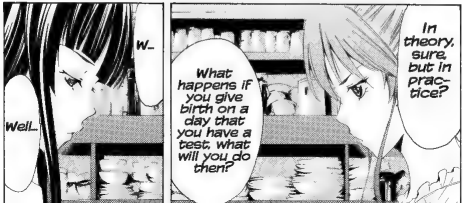
You're planning to have the child and you want to get married... Are you sure you understand how serious this all is?
The two of you are still college students, after all...

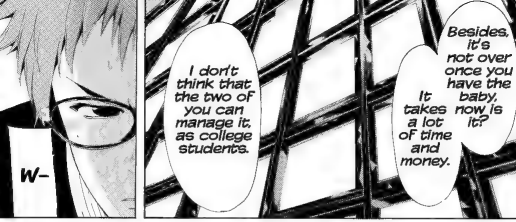

Trnk

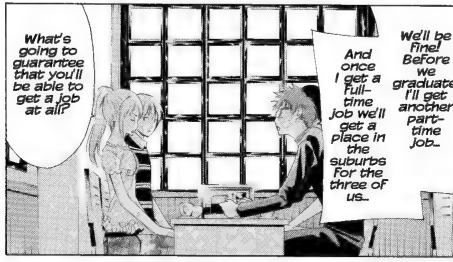
Are you really...
...thinking about the child you're about to bring into this world when you say that?
...Yu-zu-ki.
Yu-zu-ki-chan...
Uh... Well...
....
That's easier said than done.
Kiyomi-san and I are very serious about this!!
After we get married I'm going to work hard, and I promise we won't be a burden on you!!
I really am!

The two of you are still just juniors...
When the child is born, you'll still have a year of school left, won't you?
Tell me you're not planning on quitting school...

I'm going to graduate!
At our school, if you can get all your credits in by the third year, you can just take exams in the fourth year.
IF we do that, there will be plenty of time for our child!


In theory, sure, but in prac-tice?
What happens if you give birth on a day that you have a test, what will you do then?
W-
Well...


W-
I don't think that the two of you can manage it, as college students.
It takes a lot of time and money.
Besides, it's not over once you have the baby. How is it?


What's going to guarantee that you'll be able to get a job at all?
And once I get a full-time job we'll get a place in the suburbs for the three of us.
We'll be fine! Before we graduate, I'll get another part-time job.

Hey, Yuzuki.
You don't have to go that far.
IF you couldn't find a job, the ones who would really suffer would be Kiyomi and your child!!
In fact, I think someone with several part time jobs will find it even harder to find the time to look for a full-time job!
You can't just get a job by wishing for one, Takashi-kun!

Break it off with Kiyomi, please...
All you've shown me today are the wishes and dreams of two people who clearly have no idea of what awaits them if they get married without thinking.

....

....

...!
We wouldn't be asking if we'd put so little thought into it!

Even five or ten years into the future, I will still love Kiyomi.
The love I have for her now will never change!
Maybe what I've said today is nothing more than dreams.
...But right now, that's all I have to offer you.
And until they come true, I'll fight as hard as I can...!!
...Takashi.

So don't look so stressed out.
'Cause no matter what they say to us, I'll make sure your parents under-stand.
....
Okay.
What's up with you, man? You did great!
If you just go ahead and say that, you'll be Fine!
Uh...
I won-der...
Yeah... Well, we better get a move on.
Wait for our good news t'come, all right?
Y... Yeah.

Wonder if they're done talking to her parents yet...
Hmm... I'm not sure.
I hope it went well...

W... Well if I didn't go all out, it would hardly be good practice, I thought...
I didn't really mean it, though!!
Sure, but dang...

By the way, you were pretty scary back there!
If my girlfriend's parents talked to me like that, I'd totally flip out.

W... What is it?
stasare

Anyway, that's pretty lame, Haruto-kun.
I mean, Takashi-kun managed to come up with a pretty cool response!
Wh..!!
H..
Hey, come on!!
I could totally go as far as that!!
When I finally need to talk about marriage, I will!!
Who said I wanted to marry you, huh?
....
hei hei

I hope it went well...
...For Takashi-kun and Kiyomi-san's sake...
Yeah.

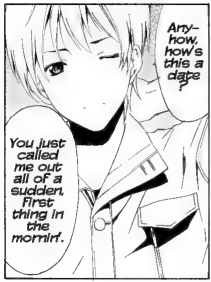
プルルル…
プルルル…

Uh...
Hello...
AH... HARUTO... WE JUST GOT FINISHED AT KIYOMI'S PARENTS'...

Um... Sorry...
We made you practice with us and all...
But it was kind of point-less in the end...
Wh...

Well, I guess Kiyomi's parents also had a shotgun wedding, so...
It turns out they just agreed to it right away. They said, "these things happen."
....
HUH?
So it looks like what you said at the start was the right answer, after all!
Man... That really took me by surprise!
You can't be serious!!
Are you tellin' me that's really what happened?!
Hey, what's up?!
What happened?!
Tell me!!

Clickety
Clack
Clickety
Clack
He's late.
TP
TP
Mor-rin!
You're here early.
....


Any-how, how's this a date?
You just called me out all of a sudden. First thing in the mornin'.

You're late!! It's a jerk move to make your date wait for you to show up, didn't you know that?!
Huh? I'm right on time, though.
You're one minute late!!
Jeez, you're picky~

I just wanted you to come along with me, so stop complaining.
Come on! I got an email this morning saying I won these tickets, so I had to call you out!
Hakkeijima Sea Paradise
Special Commemorary Ticket
八景島シーパラダイス
特別優待券

Whaaat, then why don't you-
Let's just go!!
He's busy with his job search, so I can't ask him!
Whaaat, why can't you take your big brother...???
I wanted to, but they're couple's tickets!
Whaaat, why can't you take Yuzuki...???

A town where you live
#226 Overtime?!

Yeah...
This sea breeze feels good.
Oh good. I'm glad the weather is so nice!

Wh... Did you really say that?
I dilid! You were still dating Asuka at the time.
Oh yeah, that time I said I'd go to Fantasy-land with you...

Hey, Haruto-kun, do you remember the promise I made you?
The promise that if you go out on a date with me, you'd have so much fun that you'd completely forget about your girlfriend for a little while?

It's a little late, but I'm finally going to keep my promise.
No, I...!
Set you up?
As if you didn't want to go with her in the first place.
You set me up with Yuzuki instead of showing, though.

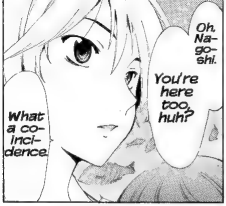

...Huh?

Are you sure you know what "therefore" really means?
Aw, come on! It'll be much easier to keep my promise that way!
All right, all right. Fine.
Huh?
There-fore!
For the whole day today, let's make as if we're a couple, all right?

Woooow! Look, senpai, look!
The fishies look just like they're flying in the sky, don't they?
It's like we're in a dream world~♥
....

Nope, I can't handle this act you're putting on.
Huh?
What act?
Little old me isn't putting on an act at all~!

Yeah. It's just about the best season for sardines. They're really good with oil.
Ah, wooow! A school of sardine!!
Fantastic!!
ぞわっ SHUDDER
....
Come on!! Can't you play along a little?!
I'm trying to act like my sister for you, too!!
You really think Yuzuki acts like that...?
poke poke
つんつん
Oh gosh, senpai, you're such a greedy guts~♥
Hyh?
Kirishima-kun?
You're creeping me out...


Oh, Nagoshi.
You're here too, huh?
What a coincidence.

What is this...?
What is...?

Who cares about that. explain yourself!!
What the heck is this?!
Huh? What?

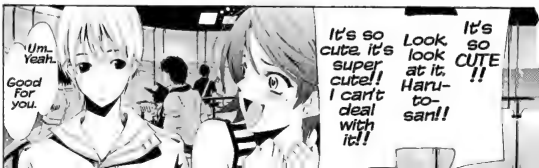
What does it look like? I'm on a date with my boyfriend.
You have something to say about it?
Hey
B-Boyfriend?

....
Huh???

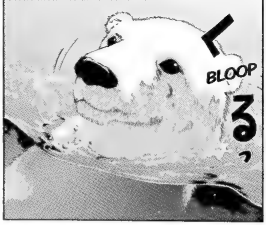
This is my girlfriend's younger sister!!
No, no, Nagoshi!

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF EXCUSE IS THAT?!
WHAM
I'm done with you, idiot!!
This is good-bye!!
tok
tok
...
Um... Are you all right?
Haru-to-san...
Why... did she punch me?
There are some things it's better not to know, I think.
Huh?
Whatever, let's keep going!
I think there's a polar bear there!!
Wai... I'm still dizzy...

PLOOSH


Um... Yeah.
Good for you.
It's so cute, it's super cute!! I can't deal with it!!
Look, look at it, Haru-to-san!!
It's so CUTE !!

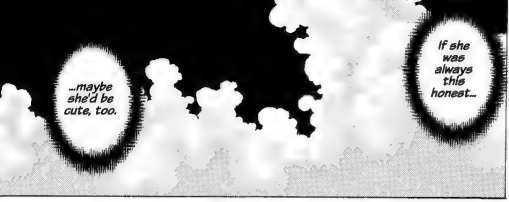
....
Aaah! It's looking over here! Its nose is so big! And look at those paws!!
Aaa aah !!


BLOOP

Yes!
...Do you... ...like bears?

Yeah.
I still treasure it even now.
Come to think of it, when I won you that bear at that arcade back in the day, you seemed real excited.

Wh-
Ya do?
Some-thing wrong?
Nah..
Hey, hey, more importantly, if we wait here a little bit longer, we get to watch them Feed the bear!
Can we stay here until then?!
Hm? Sure. If you want to, we'll watch.
I don't have any-thing I really need to see.
Yayy!!
...
Thank you so much!!
No big.


If she was always this honest...
...maybe she'd be cute, too.

Woww!! It's so beauti-ful!!
Yeah. It's pretty great.
I got to see a bear and a beautiful sunset today! I'm so glad we came!!
Haha. well then I'm glad too.
....
Ah_

....

Huh...?
I really wanted to make sure you had a good time, though...
In the end, I was the one who had all the fun...

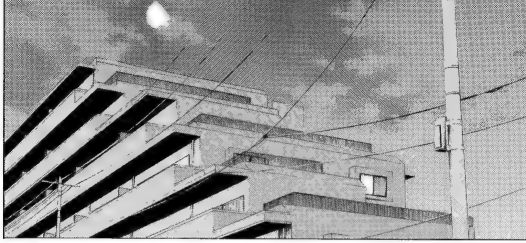
Lately so much has been going on...
I've just been thinking about all of it and not doing much else.
But today made my mood do a 360, For real...

That's not true... You definitely kept your promise, Rin-chan. You got me.
Huh...?

Thanks for inviting me out today.
It was real fun.

...No need.
You having fun... was thanks enough.

...Ah. If you want to, though, why don't we go stay at a hotel for a while?
I mean, we're a couple for today, aren't we?
Nah. I mean I'd like to and all...
But as a boy-friend, I have to make sure to get my girlfriend home by her ter-o'clock curfew!
Sorry, too bad!!
Awww...!!
You only take the no-fun parts seri-ously!!



Itsuki-san is probably already worried and waiting up for you, isn't he?
Don't be silly.

Oh, ten o'clock on the dot.
Well, then, this is the end of me pretending to be your boyfriend.
Huuuh? Why not play with me for just a little bit longer, huh?

...Oh.
Itsuki's not home...
He's out with alumni at a drinking party to make connections for his job search.

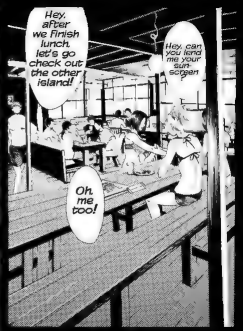
Uh, hm...
....
Huh?
Well let's do this again some-time.
Next time, I'll invite you out.
tmp
Ah!
Haru-to-san!
Hm?
C'mon we're done with that, now! See ya Later.
Well, natu-rally.
But a boy-friend's got to give back thrice times better than he gets.
....

...!!
I al-most For-got...
...to thank you For today, as your girl-friend.
But you don't have to tell my sister about all that.
Like I would !!
Weeell, you were a minute late, today.
So we made it up at the end of the day, as overtime. You were my boy-friend 'til 10:01.
But it was just until ten, I said...!!
Huh ?!
Wh-!!

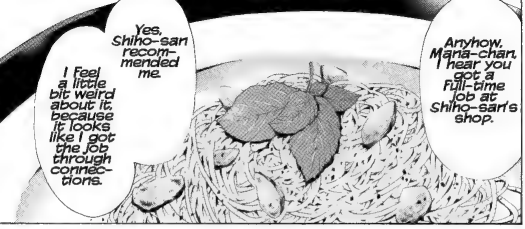
Hee hee~ I guess you're right.
It's exciting to have a secret between just us when the three of us are all together ♥
N~ No!!
That's not what I mea~
Well, good-night!
I'm looking forward to our next date!
...
~She really is~
~a pain in the ass.

# A town where you live

## #227 It's Not the Cat's Fault!



Hehe, you've certainly gotten used to that.
Yeah, yeah, sooo-ry!
What're you spacin' out for!! Keep working, Haruto-kun!!
But man, I had no idea I'd get asked to come help at the beach house.
Well, I guess owner just suddenly opened up this place and asked her to work it.
It'd be really tough if it was just Shiho-san and myself, so thanks a bunch for coming.
Ah, it's fine. I didn't have anything else to do on summer break, anyway.


Yes, Shiho-san recommended me.
I feel a little bit weird about it, because it looks like I got the job through connections.
Anyhow, Maria-chan, I hear you got a full-time job at Shiho-san's shop.

Hey, you two! If you think you've got time to chat, then-

staaare

A cat-?
Hey, how'd you get in here-?

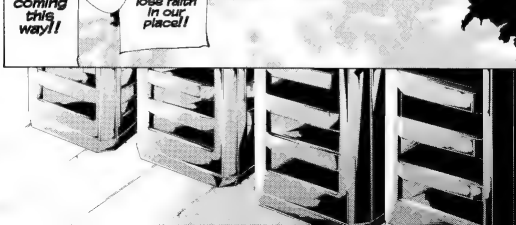
patter

What're you doin'?
That's danger-ous. I got the stove on!

Woah !!
BOMF

I...
...am just-

Do some-thing about that THING, Haruto-kun!! That thing!!
The heck is wrong with you, Shino-san?
Get it out!! Just get it out of here!!
IF people see a cat in our rest-aurant, they're going to lose faith in our place!!
I've got it. Just calm down al-ready!
Aaaah! It's coming this way!!



Huh... That's why she's so crazy about keeping cats outta this place.
Yes.
She says their eyes are scary, because you can't tell what they're thinking.
Afraid of cats?
I think it's a stray cat, though. The customers have been feeding it, so it's been coming around a lot lately...
If you see it again on your break, could you please take it outside?
Yeah. I got it.
You again?!
Wh...
...
I can't believe a terror like her is afraid of anything...
It's kinda weird.
twitch

Hey, where d you think you're going?!
I said wait!!

Ah...!
Hey, wait!!
DASH

Women's
シャワー室
Shower Room

slip
スル

Hm...
Wait...

Wha...
I can't get into this gap!

?!
TMP
TMP
Nooo !! Get ouut !!
Wa.. Shi- ho- sa-
Bre
AHHHH!!
BAM
sip

H-Haru-to-kun!!
What're you doing here?!
Sorry!! I was just following the cat and I didn't realize..!!
I'll get out...

Woah, uh..!
Eee..

...!!
Ew.. There's so much sand in my suit..!
My butt's all grainy..!

Shh!!
W-what are..

SLAM
YANK

What would it look like if the manager of the beach house was seen like this with a part-timer? People would start rumors!!
People will lose faith in the restaurant!
Oh I-
-guess that's probably true.
Anyway-
I'll leave first and put up a sign saying the room's being cleaned.
And then you can sneak out-
Oh, what's this, a swimsuit?
Someone must have dropped it, I guess.
Oh no, I bet they're wondering where it is.
Let's turn it in to the shop.
Yeah, let's!

TAP
TAP
...
Shiho-san, now's your chance!
Now you can go out and-
I can't.
Huh?
Be-cause I-
-threw my swim-suit out there just before.

...Yep.
You mean that was the swimsuit they just...
...Wait.
....
Then I'll go out there and get your clothes.
They probably are turning them in to Mana-chan right now...
N...No, you can't!
Why not?!
Because it's weird, right? You going to get my clothes!
You think Mana-chan will just let you have them without asking why!
Oh... Yeah, I s'pose not.

Any-way, why were you even takin' a shower..?
....
I was gross from sweat and sea air!!
It's none of your business what I do on my break, anyway!!
And how can you be so calm about all this?!
Bie Kuebronno

....

....
But we can't stay like this for-ever..
Ah.. Sor-ry..
Bie Kuebronno
Hey, quit looking at me..
I'm kind of freak-ing out..

I guess we've got to_

Haruto-kun. Lend me your shirt and board shorts.
I'll wear them and go get my swim-suit.
H_Huh?! I can't do that_!
It's gotta be better than you going to get it!
So quick. take it off!!
I can't go and do some-thing like that_!

GLARE
Hurry it up...!!
Wh....??
.....
Ugh...
This sucks... There's no way I can tell Yuzuki about this.
SLP
How did this happen...?!
Don't look over here, okay?
I... I get it. shut up.
Bie Kimihiro!

PAP
Wh-

Ahhhhh!!
DASH
!!

...stole my board shorts...
The cat...

What, what?!
What's the matter?!

Uhh...
So, in other words, right now...
How the heck...
-Wh-

HUH ?!
..We're a couple of perverts, a buck naked woman and a dude with his ass hangin' out, in here together.
This is even worse than before !!
It was the cat!! I'm telling you, the cat did it!!
Fine, whatever, just lend me your shirt, then!! I can manage with just that!!
That just makes the perviest perv you instead of me!!

Wah..
SIP
Huh?
It'll be fine. I'll just wear it like a diaper and cover my breasts with my hands!!
GRAB
This is just getting more and more perverted!!
GRAB
CRKK
Oww ww..
S-sorry. You okay-?
Hm-?

Mana-chan!!
...Ah!
Wh-What are you doing...?
Waah! You got it all wrong!!
It's all the cat's fault...!!
Yeah!! It's the cat's fault!!
I don't know what you're saying.
mya
mya
It's the cat!!
The cat!!

I'm tellin' ya it's the truth, Mana-chan!
Per-sistent, aren't you? I told you I get it.
Apparently, you just happened to follow the cat into the girl's shower room, without realizing it.
Then that cat just happened to go into Shiho-san's shower stall.
Then a couple of girls just happened to come in and you hid in the stall.
And the cat just happened to steal your shorts when the two of you were in there talking about something or other.
And you two just happened to fall over onto each other, naked.
Right when I just happened to walk in and see you, was that all?
W...Well...yeah. that was it.
Are you sure you had to be that sar-castic?
H...Haruto-kun, why don't you go on break?
The rush has leveled off a little.
Huh? Ah...I'm fine! I'll keep work-ing!!
I'm not sure what you mean.
But...look.
Wh...

*A town where you live*

**#228 Hermit Crab**

Yu-zu-ki..!
Huh?
Ah.. I'm so sorry!
I was yelling at you with your girlfriend here!!
Bie Kuebnonna
Whether it just happened or not, your girlfriend can't hear you and Chiho-san were hugging in the rud-
Woah, wha-!!
You're doin' it on pur-pose!!
....
Anyway, we're good for now so go have fun with your girl-friend!
You been waiting forever for her to come, right?!
Uh huh.
Okay, well, I'm gonna take you up on that..

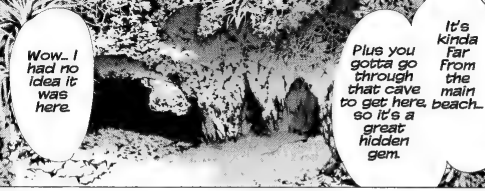
Yu-zu-ki.
chatter
chatter
slurp
How long you been here?
You shoulda said some-thin'.
Huh?
Where is Hoshina, anyway?
Oh, well...
About that...
Ah... Sorry. Miyu-chan invited me to come with her all of a sudden.
I didn't want to bug you while you were working...

I don't know if it was her or the guy who ordered her that highball, though...
ngh
While we were waiting for you, she drank too much.
She's sleeping it off in the first-aid station.

When Miyu-chan wakes up, we'll just go home.
Well...
But you must be busy, so...

You came all this way, so why don't we hang around the beach together?
We're not real busy, so they told me I could take a break.
Why don't we hang out 'til then?
What, but...

Okay!
Wowww!! This is amazing, no one's here!!
It's like a private beach!!
Isn't it?
Mana-chan told me about this place.


Wow... I had no idea it was here.
It's kinda far from the main beach...
Plus you gotta go through that cave to get here, so it's a great hidden gem.

...I got a great view of you in your bathing suit.
Be-sides, from here...

Jeez!
You perv!

Okay, I'll stay here, you go have fun swim-min'.
What, why? Come swim with me!
You know I can't swim.
Oh yeah.

Aha ha ha ha!!
Aw, why?!
Fine then, I'll just go swim somewhere you can't see me!

It's beautiful!!
Woah!!!

Look at all this huge coral!!!

I've really gotta get Haruto to come out here!
He'll be so happy to see this!!

Tug

Hm?
plip

Ahh, it's hot...
Maybe I shoulda worn a tshirt or somethin'... I'm totally gonna burn.

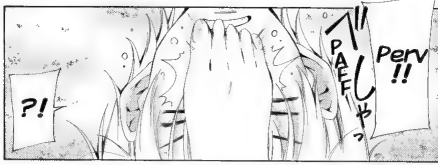
_?!

Hey, Haruto-kun, you really gotta swim with me! The coral is so beautiful!!

Why'd you...
...take your bottoms off?
Wh?
Bottoms...?
O... Oh no!!
Where'd they go?!
S'what I'm sayin'...
I thought since there ain't nobody around, you decided to go au naturale...
No way!! Plus, why would I just take off the bottom?!

Did you see..?
....

A little..
..Well


?!
PAFF
Perv !!

So go on back and look for it.
..Oh man..
I wonder where it went..

Fshh
Hey!! Stop it!! It's embar-ras-sing!!
You were all standin' there buck-naked, strikin' a pose!! I couldn't not see it!!
Of course I saw it!!

No!! What if some-one sees me?!
Haru to-kun, you go look for it!!
I told you I can't swim!
But when I threw my necklace in the lake, you dove right in!!
Yeah, but that was life-or-death.
Oh, so... This time you don't think it's life-or-death?
You must not love me as much now.
That's not it! I love you a lot right now, too!!
I mean, sure, some-one could, but...
We can't just stay here forever.
-Ah!
Then I'll go back to the Beach House and get you some clothes!!
W... Wait a sec!!
What if someone comes while you're gone?!
-Oh!

BE SERI-OUS.
It's a joke.
...Just a joke, don't look so mad...
...
Maybe you can hide yourself with this...

Fshhh

The box...?
I know!!
Let's think outside the box!!

...Ah!

Turn around, turn around!!
O-okay...

SWOOP
Wh-?
Hey, what are you doing?!
You don't think I'm going to do anything with you here...
Jeez, no! I'll just take this top and do this...
Hey, lift your hip!
N-wh-
See! It just looks like a stylish sexy swimsuit, kinda!
...

My goggles?
Swip
...we have this.
For that...?
But now my breasts are hanging out!

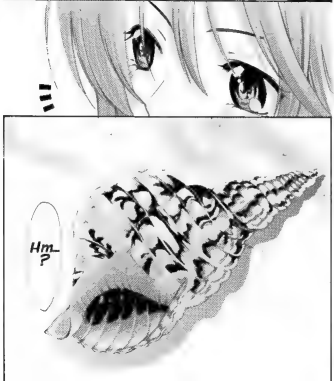
Don't move... Just a little more and I can tie it up!!
Even IF you tie it, you can still see everything!!
I'd rather wear the shell!!
Wh?
Oh. Ok...
No!

IF I loosen up the straps, I think we can manage to just barely cover you up...
Squeeze
Squeeze
Owww!! Wait just a mi... Haruto-ku- You're crushing me!!

That's it!! Lend me your shorts. Then I'll go Haruto-kun!! get my clothes and come back!!
...This again...
Again?
No... I mean!!

Just be sure to get back quick, okay?
IF anyone reported me, there's a hundred percent chance I'd get arrested in the nude...
R-right. I got it.

O-Okay! I guess that's the best way to go.
Or, well... There's nothing else that'll work, that is!!


Hm...?

Even if I did put this on there, they'd probably still arrest me.
—Nah.
What if you hide it in this?!
Bet-ter than noth-ing, right?
Huh?
...?!
SNAP
No, I do!! You might be hurt!!
Nah... I'm okay, you don't have to look...
Show me, where'd it grab you?!
O... Oh no, I'm sorry!! Are you okay?!
OWWW!! The hell, this shell's got a hermit crab in it!!
It's got me...
Augh!!
Feh
Kiri-shima-saaan, it's about time for you to come-

....
Ah...
Bie
no
Um...
Don't get the wrong idea! This is all the hermit crab's fault!
Right!! The hermit crab did it!!
I really dunno what you're saying...
Anyway, why how the heck's your timing always so bad?! Are you psychic?!

My...
...good bye party?
Yeah!
Somehow, we all managed to stay friends for such a long time.
Miyu-chan, you'll be leaving this apartment next week, right?
So before that, we thought we could do something for you.
...O-kay.
So how about tonight you come over?
It's not gonna be a big bash or anything, but I just been waitin' to make you something.
IF you're inviting me, then...

# #229 Farewell?!

201
Kirishima
桐島
Ah. Just sit back and relax.
I'm gonna go make some preparations.
Ah... Sure.
I Feel kind of bad... I'm just going off to study abroad because I want to, after all.
Don't worry about it. Haruto is excited too. It's been a while since he could really go all out and cook.
All right! Time to start it off!
Since it's a special occasion tonight I thought we'd have a menu based on our memories with you, Hoshina!
...Memories...
...with me...?
BLESSINGS

First we have our aperitif.
CLUNK
Look, do you remember this sake?
...Ah.
This has got to be...
My first drink.
When I asked Kirishima-san to be my boyfriend...
This is the sake I drank then, isn't it?!
Hey!! You didn't need to say all that extra stuff in the middle!
Wh...What are you talking about?
But Kirishima-san was so cool about it!
I remember you didn't want to do it because you thought it might remind Yuzuki of something bad.
Yeah, I was just helpin' out as a friend!!
Oh...
N... No you're wrong! Ichihara-senpai kept askin' her out and wouldn't leave her alone...
I just pretended to be her boyfriend to get him to give up...
....
I see~

She was so drunk I couldn't get her settled down, so I just slept outside!!
I...I slept outside!!
Wh...What are you talking about?
glug glug
But after that, I got super drunk and ended up sleeping naked in Kirishima's room, though. Hahaha!

Oh!

Huh? You didn't have to do that...
I didn't wrap it or anything, sorry.
That reminds me, speaking of mistakes, I brought present for you.
crinkle crinkle

Plus, after he helped me out, I wanted to do something to thank him, and he said... "Strip down to your underwear because I want to do something dirty." Hahaha!
Huh?
I didn't say that!! Hoshina made a mistake like she always does!!

Here!
Super Slippery
TP

....
Wh...

I thought you could use them right away!
Uh... well...
Couldn't you have wrapped them...?

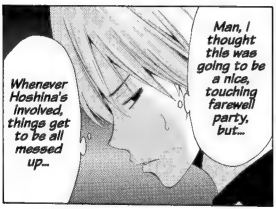
Remember when I made a mistake and bought finger traps instead of these guys for you two, as a present?
So, here you go, I did it right this time! Use them, please!!

H-How do you know...
?!
Considering how much you guys do it about three times a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday...
This should last you about two or three months, right?

Oh, that's because you're so loud, Yuzuki-chan. I don't really mean to hear it, but I can't avoid it!
Nooo oo !!

Well, Kirishima-kun, let's go on to the next memory, come on!!
Ah, the sake's already gone...
Shut up, I get it, Jeez.

It's just good I'm the one next door.
When the new people move in, you two ought to try to be careful.
Uh-huh...
This is the worst!! I'm drinking!!


Man, I thought this was going to be a nice, touching farewell party, but...
Whenever Hoshina's involved, things get to be all messed up...

Wow!! This is what we ate at that cottage in Okinawa!!
Kirishima-san, this is amazing. You've managed to recreate it perfectly!!
chk
Well, some of the ingredients are different though.
I did the best I could.

It takes me back... I can't believe it's been a year already...
You two had a huge fight on the very first day.
Oh yeah, that's right. We did.
At that time I was saved by your misunderstanding, though.
Don't die on me!!
Don't break up with me!!
You were?

Yep. I thought you didn't realize it...
snip
snip
I was just playing with a crab, though.

But I was really surprised the evening of that same day...
I woke up and Yuzuki-chan was on top of you, kissing you, Kirishima-san!
Oh... That was...

Quit makin' eyes at her!!
Oh. I want to hear more about this-
Stop!!

Well, that was just because Haruto-kun refused to start anything on his own at all!
Y-Yuzuki?!

I still got some stuff planned...
H-Hey, wait, Hoshina!
Patter
Patter
I'm going to go get it. Please be sure to eat it, okay?
Oh, that's right! The truth is, I made some memorial food, too!

CLUNK
コト

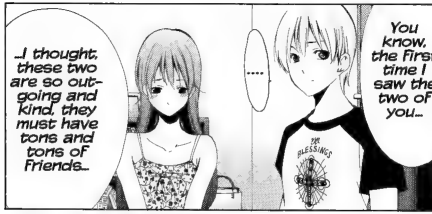
Huh?
Curry...?

Wait, what memory is curry from?
Um...
Oh no, did you guys forget?
Yep.

On the first day the three of us met...
I came over to Kirishima-san's place and you guys treated me to curry.
I'm in!
How old are you, Hoshino-san?
I tried my best and made some!

...but also really happy.
It was the first time anyone had invited me over like that, so I was pretty surprised...
Thank you so much for being so good to someone like me for the last couple of years, you two!!
I'm really very moved about the whole thing!
Today has been really fun, too, even if I have been messing around with you guys a lot.
This time is going to be a really precious memory to me too.
...Yeah.
It's really not that hard to do, though... right?

We were the ones who moved here without knowing anyone, y'know?
You're the one who did us a favor by bein' our friend...
Actually, that reminds me... You moved here at a pretty weird time of year, didn't you?
Why was that?
Well, I was livin' with my sister before...
...and I just got sick of it and wanted to move out on my own.
Oh... I guess you couldn't really have friends over like you can now.
Uh...
Ah...
....


You know, the first time I saw the two of you...
....
...I thought, these two are so outgoing and kind, they must have tons and tons of friends...

And then it turned out I was right, and I met Asuka-chan, Akari-chan, Yuka-san, Nanami-chan, Kiyomi-san and Rin-chan...
You really had all these amazing friends... I wanted to have as many friends as that.

squeeze
Actually, back then, we were really...

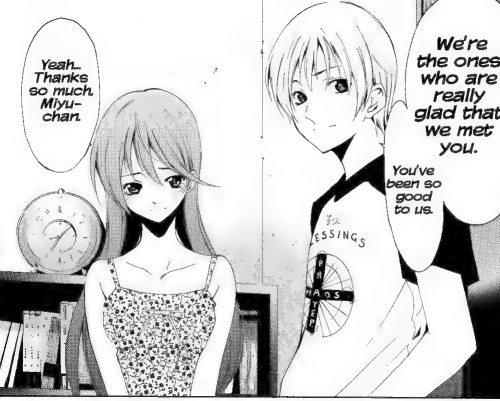
Huh?
That's not really true...

....

Sorry... I've fallen in love with someone else.
Let's break up...
Albert feels the same way, you really need to try to patch it up
If you don't, we really don't feel like we can be your friends anymore.
If you have to hurt somebody to be happy...
I don't know who said what, but...
...are you really all right with this...?
You knew it could probably end up like this, didn't you?
So just deal with it
Then it's not a real happiness at all!!!
Are you really leaving here...?
...Yeah.

...It makes me wish I'd never fallen in love with you in the first place...
The way I feel right now...
You're going to use the money you saved up for our trip together for that?!
Oh, is that how it is?
Really, thinking about how it was back then...
...What the two of us wanted.
This is...

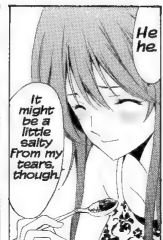
...There's no way of knowing how much Hoshina's cheerfulnese has helped the two of us...
Oh? Why are you crying, Yuzuki-chan?
SniFF
I wonder if Yuzuki was thinking about the same things as I was...
I see...
Aha...
Sor-ry...
Hm?
Thanks, Hoshina...
I was just thinking back on some things... I'm fine, I promise.


We're the ones who are really glad that we met you.
You've been so good to us.
Yeah... Thanks so much, Miyu-chan.

But, eat!
It'll be no good if it gets cold!
Oh
You're right!

Hm?
Well... You're very welcome...

...Um.
I don't know why you were crying, but...


He he.
It might be a little salty from my tears, though.

....
Speaking of misunderstandings Yuzuki-chan's had!!
Dum te dum!!
!!
CMPH
yeee
The three of us sure have done some naughty things together!!
We might as well go ahead and do it, and get it over with!!
Snap!
But I'm only in if Yuzuki-chan is, of course!
Hey! What are you taking off, Miyu-chan!?
Haruto-kun, don't look!!
SMACK
Gwuh!!
So it finally ended up this way!!

I can't believe Hoshina has already been in England for a week.
I know... I wonder if she's doing well...
I'm sure she is...
Even though she was a pretty noisy neighbor, I'm still kinda sad she's gone.
Ah... That's right. It looks like someone's already moved in next door...
Yeah, whoever it is, they been stompin' around since the crack of dawn.
ding dong
Hm?
Speak of the devil... I wonder if it's them!
KA CHIK
Hello?
buzz
buzz
buzz

*A town where you live*

## #230 Rivals Yet Again

Wh?
Chi-sa-chan?
Umm..
Who might you-

Yep, until last year. I'm in charge of middle schoolers.
Do you really love fortune-telling, Eiko-sensei?
Not even to you, Eiko-sensei!!
I'm not going to lose!!
Chisa Miyashita!!
Wants to Become School First Year!!
Chisa-chan... You mean that girl you taught at cram school?

So... Why'd you come here outta the blue...?
To say hi!
You're my new neighbors!
Wow... You sure have changed.
Hee hee, my fortune said that change would be a good look for me.

Wh... Wait, so the person who just moved in next door was you, Chisa-chan?!
Yes! Let's be good neighbors!
I... Is something the matter? Moving at this time of year...
...Did something happen?
No, I've been thinking for a long time about living on my own while I attend high school.
My fortune-telling book is almost always right...
...and it said it's luckiest to move in the summer to a place that's towards the east!!
Fortune-telling...?
...Uh
Yes!! It really is always right!!
A little bit ago, Tomo-chan!... Oh, Tomo-chan's a classmate of mine, she-
Ah, it's cool! We get it... Right all the time.

There's probably a ton of open apart-ments in the east, right?
Sure, but I mean, it didn't have to be us...

....

FWOP
If I wanted to follow the fortune, this was the only place!
Anyway, let's be good neigh-bors!!
Uh... sure.

psshh
KACHK
I'm back!
Hey, what'd she say? She comin'?
Well...
Every-thing's about ready.
Yep!
She seemed really exci-ted...
...when I told her we wanted to have her over to welcome her to the neighbor-hood.

Jeez, man... And I thought Hoshina could be a pain...
...She leaves, and an even bigger pain takes her place.
Uh huh.
She just has to get ready and then she's coming over.
As much as you're complaining about her, you still went all out for her.
hee hee
W...Well, it ain't like she's a stranger...
And when you're livin' alone, you don't really get to eat good food, often...
ding dong
ピンポーン
Ah... that must be her.
I love that about you, though, Haruto-kun...
H...Hey c'mon!
KACHIK
カチャ
Hello!

I think they were wearing a paper bag on their head. That was super scary.
It was a weirdo.
Hm. S'matter? Wasn't her?
BANG
kacha kacha
trembletrembletrembletr

crinkle
Yep.
Ch… Chisa-chan…?

Huh?
knock knock
Eba-sensei! It's me!!

Thank you so much…
…for invit-ting us over to-night.

The For-tune-telling book told us this…
On the night of the full moon, demons are about and it is danger-ous.
IF you must go out, you have to wear a black clothing, and a mask with a charm for pro-tection, and speak through a puppet, like this.
What-ever, just come in!!

?!
…What are you doing?
Is it safe for me to even ask…?

Oh wow, it all looks so good, doesn't it, Usa-mune?
Yes, it looks delicious. did you make all of this, Kirishima-san?
Uh... I did...
Um, Chisa-chan?
Yes, sensei!
You might not want to hear this, but...
...are you sure you want to live your life around fortune-telling?

Oh, it's fine! I just use it as a guideline, really!
Oh... You do?
Well, anyway, let's eat!
I bet you're hungry, Chisa-chan.
Before we eat... Can I tell your fortune, Kiri-shima-san?
Huh?
Well, I'm not really into that occult stu-
Hey, Chi-sa-chan!
It's time to put that awa-
Mm-mm-mmm-rrrr...
murmur murmur
Just put this on for a minute
shoof
?!

SEI!!
PWIK
PWIK

What do you think you're doing?!
grind
grind grind
OWWWW!!

AAAAUGH!!
FWUMP

No, I swear! It's a fortune-telling device!!
?!
?!
You can't poke eye holes while he's wearing it; you'll hurt him!!
B... But!!

I just have to know...
...If Kirishima-san and I are compatible...

Wh...?
Compat-ible...?

But it's been two years since then, and I've been through a lot.
And I always think about it when I pass the convenience store where Kirishima-san works.

It's true. I lost to you once, Eba-sensei.
I won't cause you trouble ever again!
I get it!
Good night, Eba-sensei!!
You handed me a defeat so complete that I couldn't help but admire you...

I can't fight it anymore. I love you Kirishima-san!!
I'm not going to give up!!
Huh?
Don't tell me...
That's why you decided to move here...?
Well!!

IF you want the person you love to love you back, move to the east in the summer-time!
It really was written in my fortune-telling book!

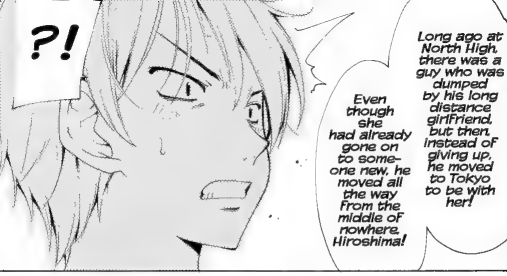
I just knew...
..this has to be destiny !!

And the places with reasonable rents were all around here...
..and when it turned out the room next to Kirishima-san's was vacated just a week earlier..!

Surely, he's saying if I work hard enough, my love will be realized!! Believe in Love Forever, is what he's telling me!!
Surely, the God of Love was telling me not to give up!!

...my getting into North High was destiny, too.
And also...

No... I never heard that story...
Don't you know it? The Moving Legend of North High.
Didn't you go there...?
Wh...
Why North High...?


?!
Long ago at North High, there was a guy who was dumped by his long distance girlfriend. but then, instead of giving up, he moved to Tokyo to be with her!
Even though she had already gone on to someone new, he moved all the way from the middle of nowhere, Hiroshima!

...Yeah, that's me.
Hey.
Isn't that...

I swore on my heart that I was going to live my life just like him.
Even though I really like and really respect you, Eba-sensei...

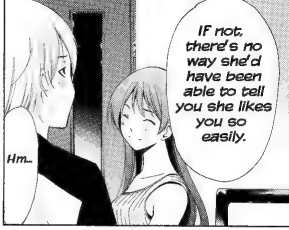
And then, and then, that guy! He made a declaration of war to his rival in love, and he took his lover back!
Even now, he's the Romance Legend of North High, and they call him the God of Love.

...From here on out, you and I are rivals in love!!
And I'm definitely not going to lose to you!!
....
What do we do?
Marr... I dunno why you're askin' me.
Well, now that we've got that all sorted, let's eat!
I'm super hungry!!
Well, do something about it, Mr. God of Love.
Don't call me that...
Anyway, why'd she poke me in the eyes...?
Dunno...

A town where you live
What? Really?!
Was that okay with you, Chisa?!
I'm totally fine with it! Like I said, I decided that there's no way I'm gonna lose to her!!
But like... Eba-sensei is super pretty, right? Aren't you scared at all?
You really think you can win against her?!
I-I'll be just fine! I'm nothing like I was back then, you know!
I'll open Kirishima-san's eyes to true love!!
UNREQUITED LOVE. THY NAME IS HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.
Sure, but you're still going straight after a guy who already has a girlfriend...
Yeah! Even though you're pretty popular at school, Chisa.
I want Kirishima-san and no one else!!
There's no one else in this world who is so cool and kind and princely!!
Well, all right. I guess I get that.
SIGH

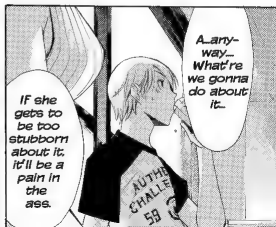
A town where you live
GIRLY... LOVELY... HAPPY~
Kouji Seo
#231: Poot Poot

Man, the heck's that girl thinking? Sayin' that stuff right in front of my place.
Aw, it's fine. I think it's kind of cute.
Why, you--
...She just said she'd steal your boyfriend, yeah?
You could act just a little more nervous about it.
Well, you know...
At first, I was a little bit anxious about it, but...
You know, it's actually no big deal, right?
tnk
...What d'you mean?
It seems like instead of being in love with you...
...She just really likes the idea of being in love with a cool grown-up man.
Most girls her age feel that way, I think.



**THE STORY SO FAR…**

HARUTO IS A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO HAS MOVED TO TOKYO TO LIVE WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, YUZURU. BUT YUZURU'S OLD STUDENT FROM HER PART-TIME JOB, CHICACHAMI, HAS JUST MOVED IN NEXT DOOR! AND NOW SHE'S IN THE THROES OF UNREQUITED LOVE WITH HARUTO?!

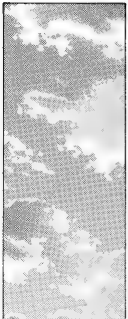


Hmmm... What if you pull out some lame puns or something!
And then you could show her all your lame points!!
Well... It might annoy her, but I don't think just that could make her hate me...
On the other hand, I could do like Takashi...
Heyyy, Akari!!!... Check out this huge booger I dug outta my nose!!
DIE !!
Oops... I farted !!
Fnart!
GO DIE !!
I know I'm sposta be eating right now, but I gotta go poop, 'kay?
JUST DIE !!
Wahaha!! Hey, Akari!, this looks just like Haruto's d*ck!!
What the hell is with you! For real, just go die already!!
. . . .
I can't really call them acts of a sane man, of course...
I don't think I could even do it while sober...

Aw, just..
Start talkin' dirty all the time and stuff..
Or like, let a fart out and go off to take a crap during dinner..

Well, I guess I could give it a try.
I mean, if Chisa-chan shows up..
Hm.. what're you gonna do?

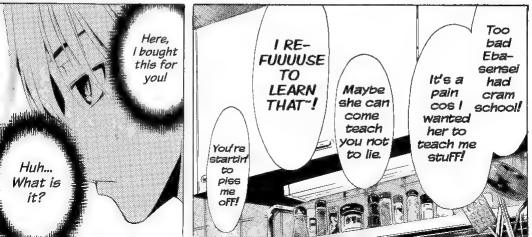
Eh?
Nothing like that will ever come out of you!!
There's no way you could do stuff like that!!



Hey, you gotta do it too, probably..
Stop saying crazy stuff!! I'll faint!
Hey, c'mon, even I gotta take a crap every day or so..

Burble
Burble
Burble

Yeah, right. With you sayin' "Ooh, my tummy's rumbly" every ten seconds. I basically had to, didn't I?
My horoscope was right on target, right, Usamune?
Woww! It's just like a dream!
I just came by to say hi and somehow you invited me in for dinner, Kirishima-san!


Here, I bought this for you!
Huh... What is it?
I RE-FUUUUSE TO LEARN THAT~!
You're startin' to piss me off!
Maybe she can come teach you not to lie.
It's a pain cos I wanted her to teach me stuff!
Too bad Eba-sensei had cram school!

It's a whoopie cushion!!
You'd never actually fart, Haruto, so use this!!
Man, she really thinks I don't fart, huh....
I gotta be careful...
Kirishima-saaan! Is it done yet?
Yeah, I'm comin' now.
AUTHENTIC

Ohhh! It looks so tasty !!
You really are a great cook, aren't you, Kirishima-san! That's so cool! ♥

All right: how 'bout we eat?
Ok! Time to eaa-!
FFFFRRRRRTTTT!
?!

Yeah? You think so?
Sorry, but... your beautiful fantasy ends here...

Wh...
What was...
...that noise??
Ah... My bad...
I just Far-ted...
All right! She's mad! She looks mad!
.....
I bet she's totally done with me n-.....
MmF!
プル プル
What are you... doin'?
Shiver Shake
I can't let you be the only one who does some-thing so embar-rassing!!
I'm trying really hard to poot too!!
Wh?! It's fine!! You're a girl, you can't do stuff like that!!
I'm sorry. I'm sorry I Farted !!

D... Dirty talk ain't gonna work...
slip slip
If she imitated me, my poor heart couldn't take it...
I guess I gotta... Even though I'm no good at puns...
clunk

Say, about this pork miso...
It smells so good, it's the kinda stuff that's makin' ME SO hungry! IF I do say so myself!
...Um, huh?

Is that something they say where you're from?
Uh... N... No... I was like... miso and me so. They sound alike, you know...
Oh! Sorry about that! It must have gone over my head!
The phrasing was a little old-fashioned, right?
Nah...
Uh... It was kind of a joke, that's all...
My heart can't take this!!

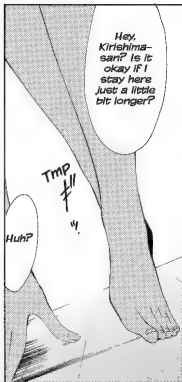
...?
It makes you hungry?

Man, I really am a boring guy...
...And in the end I didn't do a thing....

It was super tasty !!
Thanks For the meal...!!

...

Hey, c'mo...
Just...
...being here. like this. with you... It's all I need to be happy..
AUTHENTIC CHALLENCE
59
60


Hey, Kirishima-san? Is it okay if I stay here just a little bit longer?
Tmp
Huh?

I didn't really wanna have to do it this way, but...
....
I can't let it go on like this... I gotta do something to make her hate me...
Kirishima-san...?
....K-
I gotta scare her, just a little...
Yeah? Well I'm not gonna be fine with just this, y'know...
Huh?
You came here all alone to a grown man's place... What d'you think's gonna happen, huh...
You know what I'm talkin' about, don't ya?
AUTHENTIC
CHALLENGE

I....
Uh... Um...
Doesn't that mean you'll let me do what I want, huh...?
You said you liked me, yeah?
....
Fwump
H-hey, What are ya...
Huh?
Y-yes...
I'm not a child any-more... I know that much...

Kirishima-san...
Do what you will with me, please...
?!
DOOOOM
Are you dumb?!
NO !!
NO WAY !!
IT'S A CRIME !!
A CRIME !!
But you were the one who said...
NO NO NO!! It was a joke!! A JOKE !!

Cut it out!!
Okay, then let me call them up and try asking them!!
The law doesn't care about love!!
You gotta have your parents' okay!!
It's all right. It's fine if you really love the person you're with!!
I mean, come on, if I did that, the cops'd come drag me away!!
Wai... No, that's no good either...!
What about a kiss, then? That won't get you in trouble, will it?!
Gotta wipe that up fast... It'll stain!
Whoa! Aw no!!
SPLOOSH
CLINK

Ow Jeez !!
?!
BOMF
FFFRRRRTTTT
Kirishima-san... I really thought you were a little more put together than all this...
Nah... This is the kind of person I am...
Flippin' out cos some tea fell over, then stubbing my toe and letting a fart go in shock... This has gotta get her!
O...Oh yes... This is where I get a pretty good result...
...

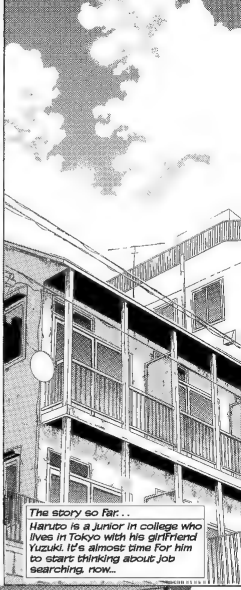
Oh my gosh! You're like a little kid! ♥
キュー♡
Squee
I've just got to stick around you! ♥
...W-WHAT.
THEM'S THE BREAKS!
THAT'S HOW IT GOES WITH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS!!
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN!!!
Did you get any on your undies?
I can do laundry For you...
You don't have to stick around!! Plus, that was a whoopie cushion!!
So cuuute~ Trying so hard to make excuses For it... ♥
This girl has a crazy strong heart!!
...to be continued!!

To Become An Adult...

Kouji Seo

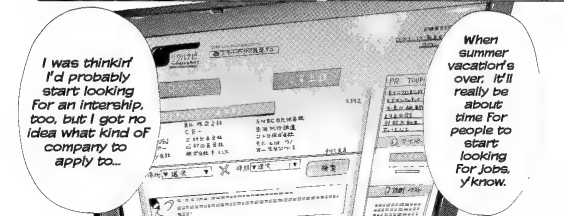
#232: To lose yourself in something.

A town where you live

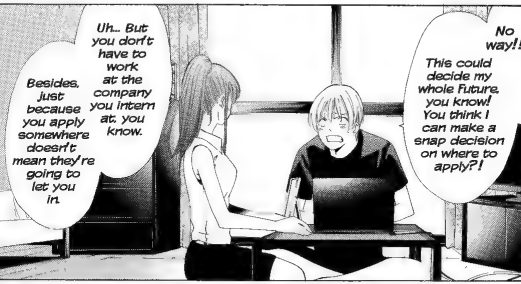


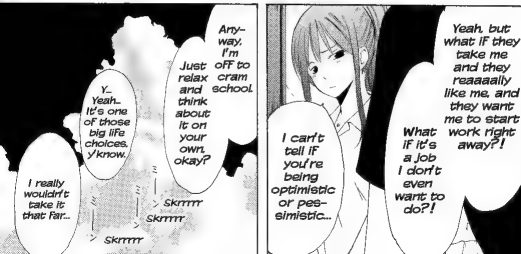
The story so far...

Haruto is a junior in college who lives in Tokyo with his girlfriend Yuzuki. It's almost time for him to start thinking about job searching, now...

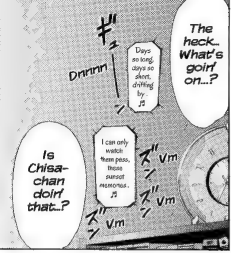

I was thinkin' I'd probably start looking for an internship, too, but I got no idea what kind of company to apply to...
When summer vacation's over, it'll really be about time for people to start looking for jobs, y'know.

Well, in the end, it doesn't really matter, does it?
You'll be an intern, so they'll have you doing a lot of different stuff to give you experience.


No way!! This could decide my whole future, you know! You think I can make a snap decision on where to apply?!
Uh... But you don't have to work at the company you intern at, you know.
Besides, just because you apply somewhere doesn't mean they're going to let you in.


Anyway, I'm off to cram school. Just relax and think about it on your own, okay?
Y-Yeah... It's one of those big life choices, y'know.
I really wouldn't take it that far...
Skrrrrr
Skrrrrr
Skrrrrr
Yeah, but what if they take me and they reaaaally like me, and they want me to start work right away?!
What if it's a job I don't even want to do?!
I can't tell if you're being optimistic or pessimistic...

...
tap
tap
tap
It's no good!! I can't decide!!
No company's jumpin' out at me!!
Even more than that, I don't even have any idea what I want to do with my life!!
FWUMP
It must be great bein' one of those lucky jerks who know what they wanna do...
It'd be great if I didn't have to worry about all this junk...


The heck... What's goin' on...?
Dnnnnn
Days so long, days so short, drifting by... ♫
I can only watch them pass, those pursed memories... ♫
Vm
Vm
Vm
Is Chisa-chan doin' that...?

?!
Flinch
Brrrm brrm brm!

BAM
BAM
BAM

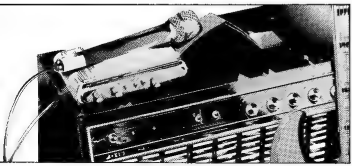
Just once, an adult's gotta let her have it. BAM! Just like that, and then she'll learn!
She's only doin' this stuff cos she hasn't been raised right!

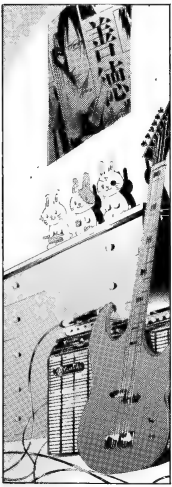
What's she thinkin', blastin' music in the middle of the day!
creak
Think about what a pain it is for your neighbors!

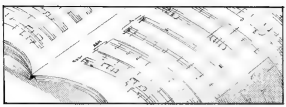
Hey, you!!
CLICK
Comin'!

Oh... Kirishima-san!
...uh.
You're coming over to hang out with me?! Awesome!!
Not really, no.
Oh, you!!
Do you normally wear that kinda stuff around the house?
OF course not! This is for practice! You know, practice!

Prac-tice?
Don't worry about it. Just come on in! I brought home a really great cake just a bit ago!!
Nah... I'm good. I'm not really that into cake...
Oh, come on! Get in here, quick!!



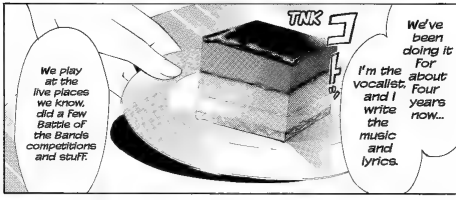

害虫志

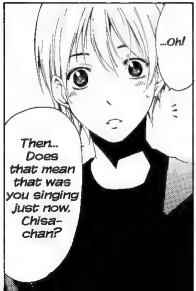


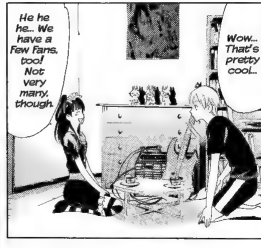
.....

When I was in middle school, my friends and I just happened to go to a live show, and we got hooked.
We were all like, "Let's make a band!" So we started a light music club.

Wait... Chisa-chan, are you in a band?
Oh... You figured it out, huh?
Oh, well, I guess so...


We've been doing it for about four years now...
I'm the vocalist, and I write the music and lyrics.
TNK
We play at the live places we know, did a few Battle of the Bands competitions and stuff.


...Oh!
Then... Does that mean that was you singing just now, Chisa-chan?


He he he... We have a few fans, too! Not very many, though.
Wow... That's pretty cool...

Nah, nah!! For real, it was pretty good!!
I thought you were just playin' a CD, y'know!!
Oh NO! I'm super embarrassed!! You heard that crappy song!!
Huh?!
Wait, you heard that?!
Well, it was kinda...
Nah
but...
Seriously, I think that's really great.
Ah!
Huh?
Wait just a minute!!
Before you eat that...
TMP
Oh?! I'm so happy!!
So have you fallen in love with me now?!
Sorry, but no way.
Aww!!

Ngh !!
SPLSH
SMOOSH!!
I got no idea what the heck you're talkin' about!!
No, no!!
It's an expression of creation and destruction!!
DON'T MESS UP MY FOOD !!
OWWWWW!!
You don't get it?
Even the most beautiful things will someday decay...
...and pass into nothing in the end.

So before that can happen. I'd rather destroy it with my own hands.
And in doing so, perhaps from this chaos, I can call forth the thing which man calls hope.
I really have no clue what yer talkin' about.
It is truth.
Shut up.

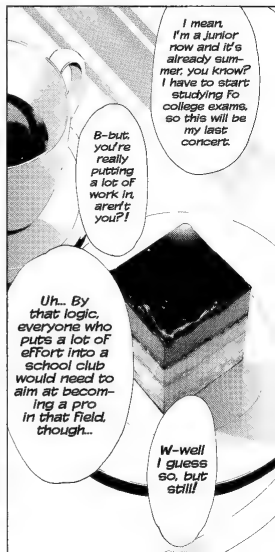
You shoulda done it to your own cake!
I don't wanna see no chaos!
I'm far beyond that stage now.
I really have no idea what yer talkin' about...

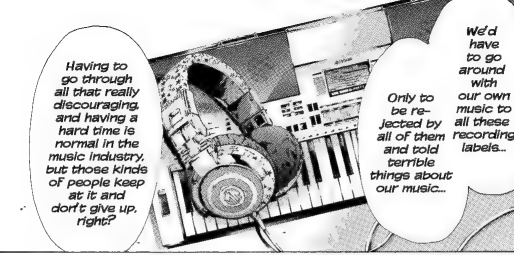
...Hm?
Man, people aimin' to be manga artists or musicians really are different from the rest of us...
Weirdos. I'd call em...

...huh?
I'm not, though? I don't want to be a musician.

I really have had fun with this band.
It's great to practice and work as hard as we can, but you know...

It's because I've tried so hard that I really get it now.
I get that people who really want to become pros are different than the rest of us.
Hm?


I mean, I'm a junior now and it's already summer, you know? I have to start studying fo college exams, so this will be my last concert.
B-but, you're really putting a lot of work in, aren't you?!
Uh... By that logic, everyone who puts a lot of effort into a school club would need to aim at becoming a pro in that field, though...
W-well I guess so, but still!


Having to go through all that really discouraging, and having a hard time is normal in the music industry, but those kinds of people keep at it and don't give up, right?
Only to be rejected by all of them and told terrible things about our music...
We'd have to go around with our own music to all these recording labels...

I know someone who's a manga artist, and she put in the effort she needed to when it got down to it!
But if you really love it, it's only natural to work past that stuff!

You said you had fans too, didn't you?!
But you've got all this musical talent and can write songs, but you're still givin' up so easily...

I guess... you're probably right about that...
The kind of people who can become pros are probably the ones who don't think of that effort as pain.
But that's exactly why I don't want to try that hard!

Anyway, are you trying to become a pro chef, Kirishima-san? You're really good at cooking, after all.
Nah... Well, not really...
It's not that I've given up, you know.
I mean, I'll still be into the band itself, probably.
I just don't get why, is all!! Lettin' all that go to waste!!
Ohhh? Well you should understand, then!
What d'you mean?

After you've seen that type of person, do you really think you could be like that?
How do I put this... To be so into something, that your focus narrows to just that one thing.
WHAT WAS THAT?!
If I can't do as I please, this room's worthless when the lights don't actually around!
I called you because there's no one I can get close to on my own! You said you're a good cook, so you must be good with your hands!
It's your fault I have to do this, dumbass!
you you have no idea what's like to be a victim of verbal-terrorism!

Well...
.....

So, this manga artist friend of yours...
Does she work as hard at anything else as she does at manga?!
...Uh.
I mean, you say that, but guys who work hard just know how to work as hard as they can is all...
You're wrong! We just haven't found our thing to work hard at yet!!
Hey!! Do your own work sometimes why don't ya??
.....
Kay, I'll let you do that report, Kinishima-kun!
Hm? P
That's why when I go to college, I want to try a lot of different jobs.
...Nah.
More like, she's terrible at anything that's not manga, I guess...
One of the seniors in the club is like that!! If it's not for the band, it's totally crap work!!
Whoa, watch your language.
I don't really need to be center stage, and get a lot of public recognition.
I just know that there's something out there that I'll try, and feel like it's a job that I can't not do, you know?

I can't let myself die before I find it!
So I have to find out what it is...

.....

Aww !!
Sorry, but no way.
He he he ♥ So have you fallen in love with me now?
Huh.. I guess you really are on a way different level than me.
N... No...
Something wrong?

I'm home!
KACHIK
Oh, hey.
Dinner's ready.
Ooh! Bitter melon stir fry!!
Yay!!
Cos seasonal veggies always taste the best.
...Oh yeah.
So have you decided where to apply for your internship, yet?

Wh... what's with the sudden change?
You can't be feeling desperate already...
OF course not, no way!
Yeah, I just picked about 10 places at random and applied.
YOU WILL SURELY FIND YOUR NICHE HARUTO !! THANKS CHISA-CHAN !!
I wanna try as many kinds of work as possible.
...But who knew...
...I could still learn something from a kid four years younger than me.
コトン
Tink
...It'd be great if I could find something like that too...
Something I feel like I have to do, something I can lose myself in.
...TO BE CONTINUED!!

24
祭
A town where you live
Kouji Seo
Shonen Magazine Comics